

AF / 1655 #15 Let. w/ fee  
PATENT  
Docket No.: 10235/4  
5/5/01  
**RECEIVED**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT : Yoshihiro SATO et al.

SERIAL NO. : 09/242,561

FILING DATE : February 19, 1999

FOR : METHOD FOR RETAINING MINUTE DROPLET, REACTING  
AND REACTION VESSEL

GROUP ART UNIT : 1655

EXAMINER : B. Forman

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR  
PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

MAY 03 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

**AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL**

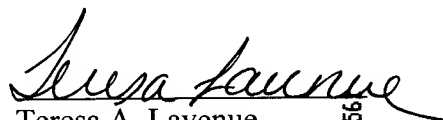
Transmitted herewith is an amendment for this application.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4258 to discuss any information concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 2, 2001

  
Teresa A. Lavenue  
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#14  
Amend D  
Watt  
5/5/01

Docket No. 10235/4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Yoshihiro SATO

Serial No.: 09/242,561

Filing Date: February 19, 1999

For: Method for Retaining Minute  
Droplet, Reaction and Reaction Vessel

Group: 1655

Examiner: Forman, B.

(Entered-in-part)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed February 2, 2001. Accordingly, this response is due on or before May 2, 2001.

No E-  
Amended  
comply  
also. do not  
w/ C.F.R. 1.121  
(no clean copies  
submitted)

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

21. (Twice Amended) A process for reducing evaporation of a minute droplet of an aqueous solution comprising the steps of:
- providing a planar substrate;
  - providing an oily liquid layer; [and]
  - providing an aqueous solution immiscible with said oily layer [a minute aqueous

Sub  
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